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Snow Ending... Bitter Cold Moving In

“ReadyWisconsin warns of falling temperatures and dangerous wind chills”

(MADISON) – Today’s winter storm brought six to ten inches of snow to parts of Wisconsin. Road conditions remain treacherous, especially on secondary roads and some highways in the Fox River Valley area. Strong winds will blow the snow creating limited visibility in many areas tonight. Drivers should check road conditions at www.511wi.gov before traveling. You may want to postpone any unnecessary travel tonight.

For the second time in two weeks strong winds and plummeting temperatures will combine for dangerous wind chills on Thursday and Friday. Highs will struggle to reach into the single digits with wind chills of -25 to -40. Wisconsin Emergency Management’s ReadyWisconsin campaign is urging families to take appropriate measures against the arctic chill.

Your best defense against the extreme temperatures is to stay indoors, but if you must head outside, remember to bundle up with multiple layers of clothing. In addition to wearing a tightly woven winter coat, a scarf, hat and gloves will go a long way toward keeping you safe against the elements. In temperatures this severe, frostbite can occur on exposed skin in as little as 10 minutes, so adding those extra layers of protection is your best defense against the wind and cold. If you notice a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in your fingers, toes, ears or the tip of your nose, you may need to seek medical help right away.

Hypothermia, a deadly condition, occurs when a person’s body temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Warning signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation, slurred speech and drowsiness. Seek medical care immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.

Cold weather also puts an added strain on your body. Activities like shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or worsen an existing condition.

Speaking of cars, make sure you have a winter survival kit in your vehicle just in case you are stranded in your vehicle and need that kit to survive. That kit should include water, snack foods like energy bars, a flashlight with extra batteries and a cell phone charger.

Lastly, remember that pets need special attention during this cold spell. Limit your pet’s exposure to the cold temperatures, and wipe off your dog’s legs and stomach when coming inside from a

walk. Pay attention to your dog's paws as they may bleed from snow or encrusted ice. Be sure to clean their feet when they return to the house, as dogs can digest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking their paws.

ReadyWisconsin is a campaign from Wisconsin Emergency Management with a mission to prepare individuals, families and businesses for emergencies and disasters. For additional winter safety tips, visit <http://ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov> or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin).



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